Interstate Data Exchange Consortium

The Finder

Dear Colleague,

Are you looking for a fast, effective and economical way to search for non-custodial parents? The IDEConsortium offers location services to "Full Member" states in the form of two different tools that I highly recommend to you.

The first tool is the IDEC Shared Database, which includes information from participating states Department of Motor Vehicles, driver license, Food Stamps, unemployment insurance benefits, Department of Corrections, State and Federal employment, and Federal new hire information.

Users can log in and search all states in the database by entering a name or Social Security number. Non-custodial parents may be located immediately, alleviating the need to send a CSENet location request to one or more potential states.

North Carolina local and state office IV-D workers report much success in obtaining location information using this database. Orange County, N.C., IV-D worker Ann Vickers has used the IDEC database during client interviews to flesh out information. In one such case, the non-custodial parent was considered "unknown" prior to the custodial parent interview. With the combined information from the custodial parent and IDEC, Ann determined the non-custodial parent's full name, Social Security number, employment information and address in another state by the end of the interview.

The second tool available to Full Member states is Supplemental Location Services. Members send location cases electronically to the vendor; Affiliated Computer Services, Inc. which accesses more than 1,000 public data sources, including telephone, public records, and credit information, etc. Location information is returned the next week to be reviewed and processed. North Carolina's State Parent Locate Service submits more than 6,000 cases annually, and receives hits on over 92 percent of cases submitted. Missing non-custodial parents are found with minimum manpower and cost.

If you are interested in taking advantage of IDEC Parent Locate Services, go to the web site www.IDEConsortium.com, or contact Tom Christmus at 803-898-7342. I encourage you to take advantage of these effective services.

Sincerely,

Barry Miller,
Chief, North Carolina Child Support Enforcement

Parent Locate
On a daily basis, state and local child support enforcement staff need reliable tools to locate non-custodial parents and custodial parents to keep child support enforcement efforts moving, reducing the time children must subsist without needed support payments.

Locate Tools
Two locate tools are available to IDEConsortium Full Member states, the Shared Database and Supplemental Locate Services. States may use both services simultaneously. These services are available through an annual flat fee. The fee for the Shared Database covers the cost of the CPU time and unlimited access to its database. The fee for Supplemental Locate Services is a per search request and is subject to a cap based on the annual flat fee.

Shared Database
Routinely, IDEConsortium Full Member participating states provide their state data to update a single, shared located database. Also, other neighboring states have agreed to provide data for the IDEConsortium database on a regular basis. Today the total IDEConsortium database contains approximately 300 million records from sources such as state DMV's, food stamps, workers compensation, correctional institutions and state and federal employers reporting new hire and wage data. [Read More](#)

Supplemental Locate Services
In order to ensure that Full Member states selecting the Shared Parent Locate Service have the highest level of service available at the lowest possible price, the IDEConsortium Board of Directors directed ACS's National Collections Center to provide locate data from approximately 1,000 public data sources. [Read More](#)

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Routinely, IDEConsortium Full Member participating states provide their state data to update a single, shared located database. Also, other neighboring states have agreed to provide data for the IDEConsortium database on a regular basis. Today the total IDEConsortium database contains approximately 300 million records from sources such as state DMV's, food stamps, workers compensation, correctional institutions and state and federal employers reporting new hire and wage data. These records can be searched on-line for immediate processing.

Specifically, the IDEConsortium Shared Database provides the following features and benefits:

On-line Name or SSN Search—The caseworker can obtain a parent's current address or place of employment in just a few seconds by entering the parent's name or Social Security Number into the IDEConsortium system. The system responds immediately with matching information. This on-line capability saves significant "locate" time when compared with manual processes and several days for database batch processes.

On-line Historic Information Search—The caseworker can perform this search by entering the parent's name. The caseworker may add qualifying information such as sex, race, and date of birth or age range. Because the system maintains historical information, a parent may also be located entering a former address or employer.

On-line Zip Code Search—The caseworker can search for a parent by zip code by entering the first three digits of a zip code in any metropolitan area. For example, the caseworker may enter a city such as Atlanta and 303*, the zip code for the greater metropolitan area. The system will automatically search the surrounding cities of Roswell, Marietta, Stone Mountain, etc., listing all names similar to the parent being sought.

On-Line Sounds-Like Search—The caseworker can also search for a parent using a "sounds-like," function, by entering in their best guess as to how to spell a parent's name. This is very useful when searching for someone with a name that has a difficult or uncertain spelling. Often, the system can help find the individual and provide the correct spelling of the name simultaneously.

Queued Search Request—When the individual cannot immediately be found on the system, the caseworker may save the name and/or SSN in a "queued search request file" which is automatically matched to the shared database whenever new data is added. Hits that result from this automated process are placed in a queued file for the caseworker to access when logging-in to the IDEConsortium network.

Batch Location Option—Any Full Member state may submit location requests via secured file transmission for batch processing. Results are processed within two weeks.

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Full Member states can submit inquiry files to ACS through secured file transmissions. All records are run in batch files and returned within 48 hours. Returned information includes the original state inquiry and the new matched data.

Specifically, the Supplemental Locate Service includes two layout choices with distinct prices:

- Layout One seeks best address, phone number or phone listing name associated with the best returned address and death indicator.

- Layout Two includes best address, phone number or phone listing name associated with the best returned address, death indicator, and address information on up to six (6) unique relatives.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
IDEC is stated-owned and operated. States may join as either Full Members or as Limited Partners through a state contract containing a memorandum of understanding agreement administered by the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) which serves as the "Seat Agency." Read more.

IDEConsortium Full Member States:
Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia

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Please visit us at www.IDEConsortium.com